

# QUARTERLY IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY REVIEW

2005 4th Quarter

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## New Company to Make Egg Cartons from Recycled Materials



*Photo by Kenn Kiser, courtesy of Morguefile.com*

**Clarion** - Clarion Packaging, a company that will manufacture egg cartons from recycled cardboard, has a plan to open for business late next year with 80 employees.

*Read the entire story on page 2*

## WESTERN IOWA MANUFACTURING

**North Sioux City**—A frozen food production company announced in October that it is opening a new plant in North Sioux City and will create about 100 jobs in the coming months.

Portionables Inc., based out of Bellingham, Wash., will open its 60,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in a former Gateway warehouse.

Portionables specializes in the development, production and packaging

*Western Iowa Continued on Page 2*

## CENTRAL IOWA MANUFACTURING

**Waukee** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) and High Quality Job Creation Program (HQJCP) grants to Quebecor World, located in Waukee & Carroll. The grants include a \$300,000 forgivable loan and a \$145,000 loan at 0% for 5 years.

*Central Iowa Continued on Page 2*

## EASTERN IOWA CONSTRUCTION

**Bettendorf** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a \$100,000 loan to Sivyer Steel Corp. of Bettendorf. The loan will be used for a \$970,000 expansion that Sivyer will use to inspect and process steel castings from offshore foundries. The project will create 22 jobs, 11 of which would pay \$25.43 an hour.

*Eastern Iowa Continued on Page 4*

## WESTERN IOWA

### MANUFACTURING

*continued from Page 1*—of individually quick frozen portion control foods. Principle products include sauces, soups, desserts and side dishes for food service and retail industries across the United States, Canada and Western Europe.

**Estherville** - C-Tech Industries (Hotsy Holdings Corp.), a manufacturer of industrial pressure washers, plans to consolidate its North American factories. As a result, two Iowa C-Tech factories will be closed. A Humboldt factory with 40 workers will close by July 2005 and a detergent factory with seven employees in Estherville will close by December 2005.

**Sergeant Bluff** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a Value-added Agricultural Products (VAP) grant to Ag Processing, Inc., located in Sergeant Bluff. The grant includes a \$100,000 forgivable loan and a \$300,000 loan at 0% for 5 years.

**Sergeant Bluff** - Gelita USA announced that it would end production of bone gelatin at one of its plants in Sergeant Bluff, eliminating the jobs of 50 employees.

The cuts - about 20 percent of its local workforce - are the result of increased international competition, rising energy costs and increased concerns of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

**Spencer** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a \$300,000 forgivable loan to Kolman Conveyor Company, a Sibley-based manufacturer of mining equipment, to relocate to Spencer. The award is from the Iowa Values Fund. The company will add 15 jobs at an average wage of \$21.99 per hour.

## CENTRAL IOWA

### MANUFACTURING

*Continued from page 1*—The company is a partnership of DeCoster Group of Virginia and Urban Forest Recyclers Inc. of Saskatchewan in Canada.

“It’s bringing a group of businesses together,” said board member Craig Lang of Brooklyn.

The company estimates it will cost more than \$19 million to establish the factory, including land acquisition, construction, equipment and employee training.

The partner companies have agreed to supply more than \$18 million with the rest coming from the Clarion city government, MidAmerican Energy and a local economic development group.

Only 19 of the 80 planned jobs have wages that exceed the standard to be eligible for state aid. For those 19 jobs, the average hourly wage is \$23.40. Most of the other jobs will start at \$12 per hour plus some benefits, which is short of the \$16.57 per hour standard for that region.

The company would get a larger package of tax credits if a higher percentage of the jobs met the standard, an Iowa Department of Economic Development official said.

**Ames** - Ball Corp., based in Bloomfield, Colorado, plans a \$7.4 million expansion at its Ames plastic container plant. The factory will add a blow-molding line to accommodate demand for plastic beverage containers.

With the expansion, 12 new positions will be created at the Ames location which now employs about 190 people. Hiring should be completed by January 2006.

The new line is expected to start up in March 2006. This is the 6th expansion of the plant since 1996.

**Des Moines** - A Dutch company plans to purchase Townsend Engineering, a Des Moines manufacturer known for its employee benefits and its owner's interest in rain forests and great apes.

Townsend, a manufacturer of meat-processing equipment, and Stork Food Systems, based in the Netherlands, signed a letter of intent for Townsend to be purchased by Stork. The deal is expected to be complete by January 1, 2006.

Ted Townsend, the company's owner, said there will be no layoffs, and the sale could provide opportunities for the company to grow.

## CENTRAL IOWA

### MANUFACTURING

**Spencer** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a \$300,000 forgivable loan to Kolman Conveyor Company, a Sibley-based manufacturer of mining equipment, to relocate to Spencer. The award is from the Iowa Values Fund. The company will add 15 jobs at an average wage of \$21.99 per hour.

### WHOLESALE TRADE

**Ames** - Syngenta, a seed, herbicide and pesticide producer, will build a new office in central Iowa to house its supply chain team.

The plans are expected to bring 48 jobs to Ames, city officials said.

Construction of the 120,000-square-foot office building is expected to be completed by February 2006.

**West Des Moines** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) grant to Briggs Medical Service Company, located in West Des Moines. The grant includes a \$250,000 forgivable loan and a \$250,000 loan at 0% for 5 years. The grant stipulates that Iowa employment must be maintained for 10 years.

### RETAIL TRADE

**Kanawha** - Two husband-and-wife teams hope to step into success in their new downtown Kanawha business.

In Step Flooring opened Nov. 14 at 204 N. Main, the former Bloemke Pharmacy location.

An open house will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. today with refreshments and door prizes.

The enterprise features carpet, vinyl, ceramic, wood and laminate for commercial and residential use.

**West Des Moines** - OshKosh B'Gosh in Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines plans to close, possibly by the end of the year. OshKosh B'Gosh Inc. was acquired by Carter's Inc. in mid-May. Carter's announced last month it would close the 15 OshKosh stores in retail malls and focus on its outlet business.

### INFORMATION

**Des Moines** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) and Enterprise Zone grants to Hershey Systems Inc., located in Des Moines. The grants include a \$200,000 forgivable loan and a \$200,000 loan at 0% for 5 years.

### FINANCE & INSURANCE

**Des Moines** - Government leaders dangled as much as \$47 million in incentives - and an experiment with free bus service for employees - to Nationwide Mutual Insurance to persuade it to spend \$142 million on two new office buildings in downtown Des Moines.

Nationwide pledged in return to fill those buildings with at least 1,570 new workers, and perhaps 830 more, as it makes Des Moines a crucial staging base for expansion of its insurance business. The new jobs, ranging from sales and customer support to claims servicing and underwriting, will average \$40,000 in pay, plus benefits, for non-managers.

### PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES

**Des Moines** - Pioneer Hi-Bred International fired about 35 employees as part of a realignment of the seed corn company's research organization. The terminations included administrative and research employees.

### ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES

**Oskaloosa** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a Value-added Agricultural Products (VAP) grant to Vande Rose Foods, L.L.C., located in Oskaloosa. The grant includes a \$50,000 forgivable loan and a \$50,000 loan with 10 year amortization and 5 year balloon.

About 40 people worked at the restaurant. They were given severance pay.

## CENTRAL IOWA

### ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES

**West Des Moines** - Buca di Beppo, the Italian restaurant, closed November 5th due to low sales. Stephen Hickey, a Buca Inc. spokesman said, "The West Des Moines store never met our volume objectives".

About 40 people worked at the restaurant. They were given severance pay.

## EASTERN IOWA

### MANUFACTURING

**Bettendorf** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) grant to Bee Line company, located in Bettendorf. The grant includes a \$36,000 forgivable loan and a \$36,000 loan at 0% for 5 years.

**Davenport** - The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded a Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) grant to TMT Manufacturing LLC, located in Davenport. The grant includes a \$50,000 forgivable loan and a \$50,000 loan at 0% for 5 years, with payments deferred for 60 days.

**Davenport** - A thermal-processing company wants to bring a \$5.5 million plant to northwest Davenport. The facility will feature cutting-edge equipment and will create 17 new jobs.

MMS Thermal Processing wants to begin construction in the spring on a 17,000-square-foot facility at the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center.

The plant is expected to have one of the newest vacuum-carburization furnaces in the world, introducing new technology that changes and strengthens the molecular structure of metal. It makes the part better, costs the manufacturer less and helps them stay very competitive.

**Dubuque** - The company calls it "right-sizing." The union sees it more as payback for labor's refusal to go along with contract concessions.

However either side slices it, come October 14 there will be 37 fewer jobs at Flexsteel Industries' ever-shrinking Dubuque plant.

The furniture maker on confirmed it will "abolish" 37 positions at its flagship factory, according to Flexsteel spokesman Tom Baldwin.

"It is an effort to right-size the plant based on current business levels," said Baldwin. The company simultaneously posted a dozen new positions in the local plant's residential division, Baldwin said.

**Farley** - Pending final financing, a new \$50 million alternative energy plant will make Farley its home. Plans for the plant call for it to utilize a continuous flow transesterification process, which can use either soybean oil or animal fat to produce biodiesel. Officials hope the plant would be operational within a 1 to 1 1/2 year time frame. The operation is expected to bring around 25-30 'well-paid' jobs to the Farley community.

**Keokuk** - A southeast Iowa plant that makes marine bearings and fenders will close this year, company officials announced. Officials with Finland-based Metso Minerals said the company's plant in Keokuk will close during the first half of 2005. The move will eliminate about 100 jobs.

Metso's core businesses are fiber and paper technology, rock and mineral processing and automation and control technology. Because the fender business is not one of the company's core businesses, Metso is considering the sale of all fender-related assets, company officials said in a written statement.

**Ottumwa** - Ottumwa manufacturer Al-Jon Incorporated will add 30,000 square feet and 25 workers over the next 18 months to meet growing demand for equipment to recycle steel scraps and manage landfills.

The \$1.2 million project is slated for completion in late 2006 and adds to the current 100,000 square feet and 110 employees. President Kendig Kneen said investment in product development has resulted in the "right products at the right time."

**Peosta** - Mi-T-M Corp. wants to build a 400,000-square-foot distribution center at its home base, Peosta's industrial park, with a targeted opening by fall of 2006.

The project, estimated to cost as much as \$16 million, would create 44 jobs with a combined annual payroll of \$1.8 million, according to Spiegel, Mi-T-M's founder and chief executive officer.

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**EASTERN IOWA**


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**MANUFACTURING**

**West Burlington** - An increase in orders leads to more work at the switchgear manufacturer as General Electric recalls 50 workers. Plant officials commented that the increased business is due to the need for replacement components in the storm-ravaged South.

The West Burlington plant manufactures low and medium voltage switchgears for industrial, commercial, telecommunications and utilities sectors.

**WHOLESALE  
TRADE**

**Cedar Rapids** - Liebovich/PDM Steel & Aluminum announced plans for a \$3.8 million expansion of its facilities. The office will expand 3,500 square feet and the warehouse 73,000 square feet. The Cedar Rapids operation provides services in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Twelve new employees will be added to the branch's workforce of 48.

**Davenport** - Midwest Wheel breaks ground for a warehouse distribution company located across from Farm and Fleet on North-west Blvd in Davenport. The \$1.13 million dollar project is expected to be completed by next spring. Midwest Wheel plans to add four to six new employees to its 28 person workforce.

**FINANCE &  
INSURANCE**

**Waverly** - A Wisconsin-based insurance company has announced it will eliminate 38 jobs at its office in Waverly.

The jobs will be phased out over the first 9 months of 2006, said officials with CUNA Mutual Life Insurance. The reductions are the result of company-wide reorganization.

**ADMINISTRATIVE &  
WASTE SERVICES**

**Ottumwa** - Influent Inc., an Ohio-based telemarketer, said it plans to open a call center in southeast Iowa.

In the first quarter of 2006, the company plans to employ 50 full-time workers.

**ACCOMMODATION &  
FOOD SERVICES**

**Riverside** - Washington County Casino Resort LLC announced plans for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort to be located in Riverside.

The groundbreaking for the \$20 million project was planned for July 20 at 3 p.m.

Riverside Casino and Golf Resort is expected to create 850 new jobs for the area and host an estimated 1.3 million visitors per year. The 340-acre development will feature an 18-hole golf course, a 200 room luxury hotel, 1,200 seat entertainment venue, 1,100 slot machines, 40 table games and three food outlets.

**Top 5 Counties  
Unemployment Insurance  
Benefit Payments, Dec**

Polk	\$ 3,567,682
Linn	\$ 1,985,771
Scott	\$ 1,256,815
Black Hawk	\$ 1,168,994
Dubuque	\$ 1,014,605

**Mass Layoff  
Statistics—Nov<sub>p</sub>**

US Layoff Events	1,254
Iowa Layoff Events	20
Iowa Initial Claimants	1,636

National Layoff Stats are available from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications,  
December**

Business	Location

WARN offers protection to workers, their families, and communities by requiring employers to give 60 days advance notice of covered plant closings and covered mass layoffs

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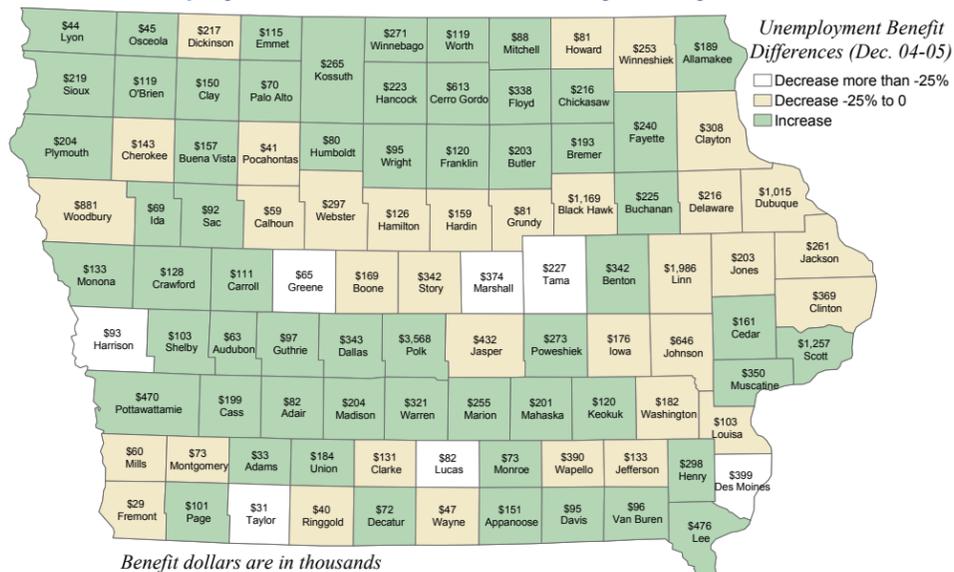
**Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments - December**

Iowa unemployment insurance benefit payments for December 2005 totaled \$29.2 million for 37,415 claimants. The figure represents an increase of \$8.1 million from the November 2005 value of \$21.3 million for 25,243 jobless Iowans. The loss of a fifth processing Wednesday was countered by an increase in construction and

manufacturing claims.

The December benefit payments were only marginally lower than the value of one year ago. A total of \$29.5 million was reported for December 2004 for 34,459 unemployed workers.

**Unemployment Insurance Benefit Paid by County - December**



**Happenings Around the State**

**MMS Thermal — Davenport**

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**Nationwide Mutual Insurance — Des Moines**

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**December Nonfarm Employment Increases**

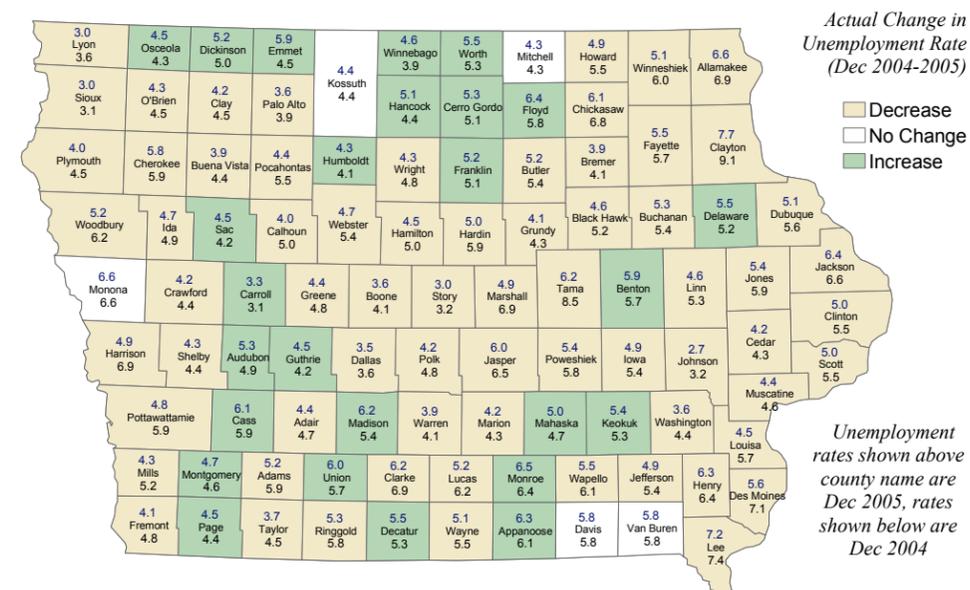
Iowa's nonfarm employment totaled 1,490,800 during December, 6,100 more than in November and 29,000 more than in December 2004. This is the third time in the past year that job growth has exceeded 6,000 for a single month.

All published sectors except Information added new jobs during December. The largest single increase occurred in Construction, which was up by 1,600 over the month, followed closely by Manufacturing, up by 1,300 from November.

Compared to December 2004 the nonfarm sector has added 29,000 new jobs, with growth in all sectors except Information.

On the national level, nonfarm employment was up by 108,000 during December, about half the increase most analysts had been expecting. Most of the growth over the month was again centered in the service-providing sector.

**Unemployment Rates per Iowa Counties - December 2004 and 2005**



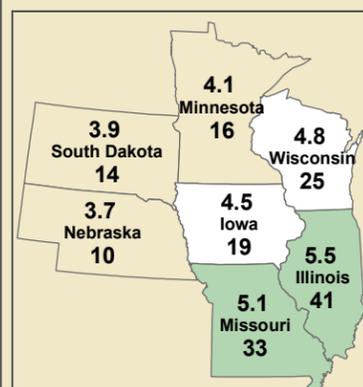
**Statewide Hours & Earnings - December**

Workers in Iowa's private sector earned \$491.45 a week during December, \$10.05 a week more than in November. The increase in weekly earnings was mainly due to more overtime in the Manufacturing sector, particularly in the Durable Goods division.

December's gains in Manufacturing more than offset less overtime, and declining hours and earnings, in the Mining and Construction divisions of the goods producing sector.

Weekly earnings in the service-providing division were up by \$6.58 during December, due to an increase of 18 minutes in the average workweek and seven cents in hourly earnings.

**Unemployment Rates - Dec<sub>p</sub>**



*Unemployment rates shown above state name, national rankings shown below*

Country	Rate
United States	4.9
Canada	6.5

**Consumer Price Index**

CPI-U (04-05 Dec <sub>p</sub> )	OTY Change
United States	3.4%
Midwest	3.2%

**Iowa's Hours & Earnings**

Avg Weekly Earnings	\$491.45
Avg Hourly Earnings	\$14.67
Avg Weekly Hours	33.5

*Total Private in December 05<sub>p</sub>*

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*p - preliminary data*

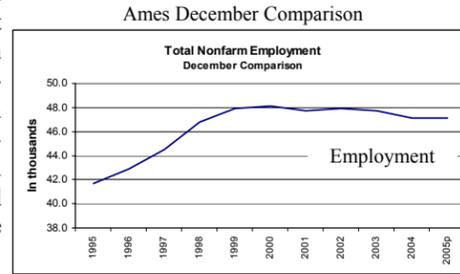
IOWA MSA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

**Ames MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	47,100
Total Nonfarm 04	47,100
% Change 1 Yr	0.00%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1yr)	
Fed Government	9.10%
State Government	-6.40%

Ames MSA

Total nonfarm employment in the Ames MSA declined by 800 jobs in December 2005. Despite increases in retail trade, educational support services and facilities management experienced seasonal job losses which contributed to the decrease in service-providing industries. Total nonfarm employment remains at the December 2004 level. Although goods producing and private service-providing added 300 and 500 respectively over the year, state government is down by 900 jobs.

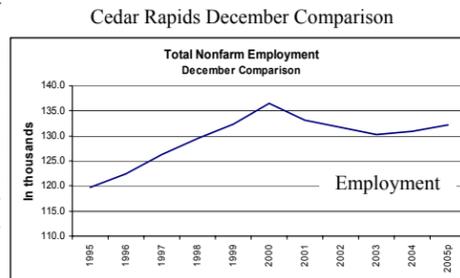


**Cedar Rapids MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	132,200
Total Nonfarm 04	130,900
% Change 1 Yr	1.00%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Hospitals	9.10%
Grain/Oilseed Mill	-14.30%

Cedar Rapids MSA

Total nonfarm employment in the Cedar Rapids MSA dropped 700 jobs during December 2005, to a total of 132,200. However, employment still remains 1.0 percent (1,300 jobs) higher than one year ago. Increases in the accommodations & food services, retail trade and health services sectors offset some of the declines reported in the government, transportation, and administrative & support services sectors. Although the manufacturing sector held its' own this month, expected seasonal decreases in construction provided the 400 loss in goods-producing this month. This sector has lost 500 jobs since December 2004. Information, financial activities and other services industries remained unchanged for the month.

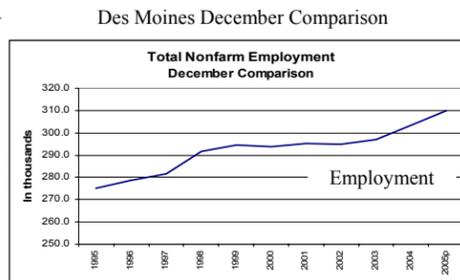


**Des Moines MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	309,800
Total Nonfarm 04	303,400
% Change 1 Yr	2.10%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Credit Intermed.	8.80%
Nat. Resources & Construction	-7.80%

Des Moines MSA

The Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area saw a 400-job increase from November to December 2005. Natural resources and construction continued its seasonal decline, slipping down by 6.1 percent over the month. Following a November decline, wholesale trade rebounded, adding 200 jobs in December. Retail trade reached record high employment of 40,600. Information has reached its highest level since January 2002, after exhibiting a downward trend for three years. Job growth was noted in publishing and internet service providers. Despite a decrease in insurance carriers, the financial activities sector continues to nudge upward. In administrative and support services, noteworthy decreases in temporary employment agencies bumped employment down to its lowest level since March. Other industries remained virtually unchanged over the month.

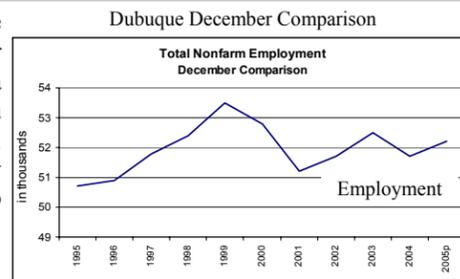


**Dubuque MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	52,200
Total Nonfarm 04	51,700
% Change 1 Yr	1.00%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Loc Government	5.40%

Dubuque MSA

Total nonfarm employment for the Dubuque area dropped by 500 jobs during December 2005, to a total of 52,200. After reaching a high of 53,700 in June 2005, employment in the Dubuque MSA has nudged downward; however, employment in the sector is now reporting a 500 increase from one year ago (1.0%).



For additional information, please call 800-532-9793 or visit the website below

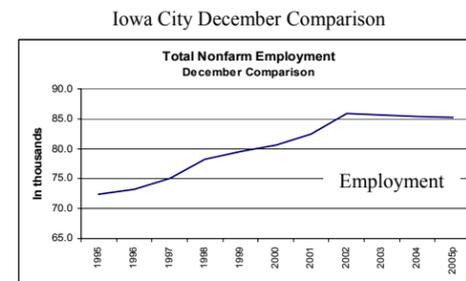
IOWA MSA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

The majority of this month's drop (400) was due to expected seasonal declines in the goods-producing sector. Even with current decreases, the government and service-producing sectors are higher than December 2004, by 200 and 500, respectively. However, at 11,600, the goods-producing sector remains the same as one year ago.

Dubuque

Employment in the Iowa City Metropolitan Statistical Area reversed direction during December 2005 with a drop of 700 jobs (0.8 %), nudging down total nonfarm employment to 85,200. Although the MSA has reported increases for each of the past two months, total nonfarm employment remains 0.2 percent (200 jobs) lower than one year ago. Retail trade increased by 100 jobs this month, but this small jump could not overcome the declines in government, leisure & hospitality, professional & business services and the goods-producing sectors. The transportation & warehousing sector was the only one that remained essentially unchanged for the month.

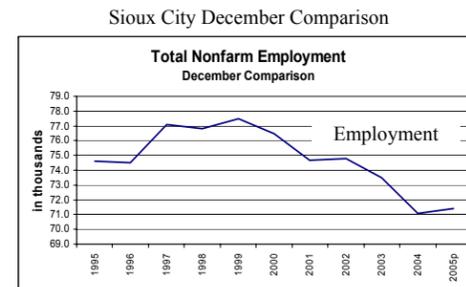
Iowa City MSA



Nonfarm employment in the Sioux City MSA decreased by 0.7 percent or 500 for the month of December. Over the year, employment is up 0.4 percent, and has been trending upwards for the last 12 months since reaching a trough in December 2004.

Sioux City MSA

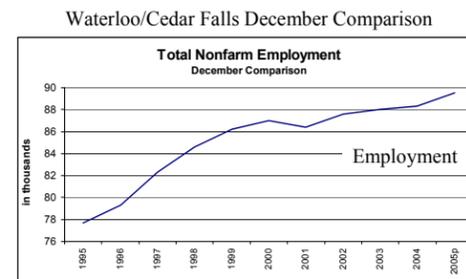
The goods producing sector fell 300 or 1.8 percent. The job reductions were mainly in construction. Manufacturing maintained its levels, however it is still below 2004 levels.



Service providing also lost employment, down 100 or 0.2 percent over-the-month. However over-the-year, employment is up 200 and has maintained slightly upward trend for the last 11 months. Declines occurred in leisure and hospitality, down 200, mostly in Food Services and Drinking Establishments.

Nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area decreased by 500 (0.6%) in December 2005, bringing total nonfarm employment down to 89,500. Employment in this MSA remains 1,200 higher (1.4%) than one year ago; all of which is reported in the private service-producing sector. An increase of 400 in the goods producing sector for the year was offset by a 400 decrease in government.

Waterloo/Cedar Falls MSA



Manufacturing decreased by 300 this month, yet remains slightly (100) higher than one year ago. Education & health services, leisure & hospitality and professional & business services each lost 100 jobs this month, while government and trade & transportation remained unchanged for December. Although professional & business services reported a small decline this month, this sector is still 7.5 percent (500) higher than one year ago.

For additional information, please call 800-532-9793 or visit the website below

**Iowa City MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	85,200
Total Nonfarm 04	85,400
% Change 1 Yr	-0.20%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Fed Government	6.30%
Admin & Support	-10.70%

**Sioux City MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	71,400
Total Nonfarm 04	71,100
% Change 1 Yr	0.40%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Prof & Bus Svcs	7.10%
Retail Trade	-4.70%

**Waterloo/Cedar Falls MSA  
Employment, Dec 2005<sub>p</sub>**

Total Nonfarm 05	89,500
Total Nonfarm 04	88,300
% Change 1 Yr	1.40%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Prof & Bus Svcs	7.50%
Fed Government	-14.30%

P - preliminary data

Data is not seasonally adjusted